

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/4/09

SPONSOR Martinez, K. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 264

SHORT TITLE Improve Quality of Life for Disabled SB _____

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Responses Received From
Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD)

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 264 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Governor's Commission on Disability for the commission's participation in programs designed to improve the quality of life for person with disabilities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The fiscal year 2009 operating budget for the commission is \$1.04 million.

The Governor's Commission on Disability provided the following information:

A disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially affects one or more activities of daily living. Many disabilities such as diabetes and learning disabilities are not visible.

- There are over 300,000 of adult, non-institutionalized New Mexicans reported having a disability in New Mexico
- 24% of the population
- 80,000 report needing assistance
- 26% of Native Americans living on reservations or pueblos report having a disability

People with disabilities are entitled to the same "...life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" that many other members of society take for granted.

With this appropriation the Governor's Commission on Disability would be able to fund several programs. Such as:

- Continue the Quality of Life Grant program. Over the last three fiscal years the commission awarded over \$341.2 thousand to 37 non-profit organizations to fund disability programs around the state, including Roswell, Taos, Silver City, Crownpoint, Farmington, Jemez Pueblo in addition to Santa Fe and Albuquerque. There have been over 130 applications for funding. The GCD reviewed applications to assure that funding was provided to various disability proposal and spread across the state;
- Support the Southwest Conference on Disability. This is the only cross disability conference in the nation which focuses on disability from the social, cultural model as oppose to an academic or medical perspective. Attendees at the conference include people with disabilities, family members, service providers, researchers and other interested parties. The annual conference has grown from 500 attendees in 2006 to over 700 in 2008;
- Sponsor a Southwest Neuroimmunologic Symposium – In conjunction with the Cody Unser First Step Foundation and UNM to bring specialists, patients, and caregivers to discuss and review and understand Neuroimmunologic issues.
- Organize a quality of life symposium. This is a symposium to focus on a quality of life perspective for people with disabilities in New Mexico. This would include issues regarding assistive technology and positive implications related to long term services; Veteran concerns – to invite the Department of Veterans Affairs and DARPA; issues relating to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); and other pressing issues related to individuals with disabilities.